

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE**  
**January 14 - 21, 2010**

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**1. [Clinton on Afghanistan, Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy](#) (01-21-2010)**  
**Secretary Clinton announces the release of U.S. security strategy**

Release of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy

I have made it a top priority to elevate the role of diplomacy and development alongside defense in our national security strategy. Nowhere is this more urgent than in our efforts to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan. To meet this core goal, President Obama has outlined a strategy that includes supporting the Afghan and Pakistani governments' efforts to defeat the extremist threat. As President Obama made clear at West Point on December 1, our civilian engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan will endure long after our combat troops come home. While our military mission in Afghanistan is not open-ended, we are committed to building lasting partnerships with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The challenges in both countries are immense. The Afghan government is under assault from the Taliban and struggling to provide security, jobs, and basic justice to a society devastated by 30 years of war. Across the border, the Pakistani people are victim to regular suicide bombings despite their military's increasingly determined efforts against extremist elements. And while al-Qaeda's safe-haven in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area is increasingly disrupted, its senior leaders are still planning attacks against our homeland and our Allies.

We shaped our political, economic, and diplomatic efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan with these realities in mind. Far from an exercise in "nation-building," the programs detailed here aim to achieve realistic progress in critical areas. They are aligned with our security objectives and have

been developed in close consultation with the Afghan and Pakistani governments, as well as our international partners. When combined with U.S. combat operations and efforts to build Afghan and Pakistani security capacity, these programs constitute an innovative, whole-of-government strategy to protect our vital interests in this volatile region of the world.

We have no illusions about the challenges ahead of us. Achieving progress will require continued sacrifice not only by our military personnel, but also by the more than 1,500 U.S. government civilians serving in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But for the first time since this conflict began, we have a true whole-of-government approach. The Afghan and Pakistani governments have endorsed this strategy and are committed to achieving our shared objectives. And as I was reminded during recent visits to Afghanistan and Pakistan, our civilian and military personnel are working together as never before.

For these reasons, I believe this strategy offers the best prospect for stabilizing Afghanistan and Pakistan. I look forward to working with Congress to secure the non-military resources needed to achieve our mission and to signal our commitment to Afghanistan and Pakistan. I am committed to doing everything possible to ensure that those resources are well spent advancing our national interests.

The Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy is available at the following link:  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/135728.pdf> .

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## **2. Gates Says Violent Extremism Is "Common Enemy" for Pakistan, U.S. (01-21-2001)** **Regional cooperation needed to eliminate terror syndicate**

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Jan. 21, 2010 — The most pressing threat to Pakistan and India — and the region, as well as the United States — is violent extremism, not each other, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said here today January 21, reiterating the message he delivered in his last stop in India.

"This was a theme that I basically sounded while I was in India: that Afghanistan, Pakistan and India all share a common enemy, as do we in the United States," Gates said during interviews with Pakistan's Express TV cable station and the state-owned Pakistan TV at U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson's official residence.

Gates cited a terror syndicate that threatens the region, noting that the various organizations all operate under the same umbrella. "You can't say one is good and one is not good," he said. "They are all insidious, and safe havens for all of them need to be eliminated."

The secretary emphasized the need for Pakistan and India to work cooperatively, and with the United States and coalition, to face this threat, rather than pointing fingers at each other.

He worked to allay concerns about India's activities in Afghanistan, emphasizing that Indian officials assured him during his visit to New Delhi that they are limited to economic development programs.

“Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was very explicit in saying that either in Afghanistan or more generally, that Pakistan has nothing to fear from India,” he said.

Gates congratulated the Pakistanis today January 21 on the success of the operations they have conducted in confronting violent extremists.

Gates declined to discuss drone activities directly, but offered, “I will say that these unmanned aerial vehicles have been extremely useful to us, both in Iraq and in Afghanistan.”

The United States is working to provide the Pakistanis their own intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, he said, and considering providing tactical UAVs — 12 unarmed RQ-7 Shadows funded through the Pakistan counterinsurgency fund.

These capabilities would help the Pakistani military better monitor activities along the country’s porous border with Afghanistan, he said.

Asked about the July 2011 timeline to begin troop withdrawals in Afghanistan under President Barack Obama’s new Afghanistan strategy, Gates emphasized that it marks only the beginning of a process of drawing down. “There is no deadline,” he said, and the drawdown pace is to be determined by conditions on the ground.

Gates said he’s confident in the new strategy, and believes that with Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal overseeing its implementation and 30,000 additional U.S. troops on the ground, “we have the right leader and the right troops soon to be in place to be successful in this conflict.”

Gates acknowledged during the interviews the United States’ past mistake in abandoning Pakistan, and promised not to repeat it. “We are determined to be a reliable and long-term ally,” he said.

“We are focused on the way ahead.”

The secretary acknowledged “conspiracy theories” within Pakistan and elsewhere about U.S. intentions, and countered them head-on.

“We have no intention or desire to take over Pakistan’s nuclear weapons,” he said. “We have no desire to occupy any part of Pakistan or split up any part of Pakistan. We have no intent to split the Islamic world.

“And I can keep going, because we are aware of these conspiracy theories as much as anyone,” he continued. “And they are all nonsense.”

Gates expressed admiration for the way Pakistan’s military has stepped up to face extremism, and recognized the sacrifices it has taken in the process.

“We are prepared to provide whatever help they want to make them more effective,” he said.

Gates met today January 21 with Pakistani Defense Minister Ahmad Mukhtar, Army Chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Gen. Tariq Majid, chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Intelligence Chief Gen. Ahmad Shuja Pasha.

He attended a dinner hosted by Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, where he also met with Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

While in Islamabad, Gates laid a floral wreath at the Pakistan army's Martyrs Monument honoring those lost for Pakistan's security.

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### **3. Secretary Gates Emphasizes U.S.-India Opportunities During Visit (01-20-2010)** **India showed "statesmanlike" response to Mumbai crisis, he says**

The following article originally appeared January 19 on the Department of Defense Web site.  
Gates Presses for U.S.-Indian Cooperation  
By Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service

NEW DELHI, January 19, 2010 – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates today Jan. 19 emphasized the opportunity and the need for closer defense cooperation between the United States and India in a broad range of areas, including the maritime, cyberspace and space domains.

Gates kicked off his two-day visit to India today Jan. 19 by meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, discussing the two nations' shared values, interests and challenges, senior defense officials told reporters following the sessions.

The secretary is expected to reinforce that message — and the U.S. wish to broaden its strategic partnership with India — when he meets tomorrow Jan. 20 with Defense Minister A.K. Antony.

Today's Jan. 19 sessions covered a broad range of issues, but focused heavily on the violent extremism that threatens both countries and their need to continue collaborative efforts to confront it.

A senior official who attended today's Jan. 19 talks said Gates also addressed the need to overcome roadblocks that stand in the way of two critical tools supporting counter-extremism efforts: more technology sharing and an increased flow of information and expertise.

"We want to enhance and strengthen our sharing of technology with India," the official said. "We want to be able to share more information with India ... and develop cooperative programs, particularly in the maritime, cyberspace and space area."

The need to secure these realms, the so-called "global commons," is among the 21st-century challenges that "can only be solved by many nations working together in concert," Gates wrote in an article published in today's Jan. 19 Times of India.

Yet the secretary has long been frustrated that U.S. law limits just how much technology and information the United States can share with trusted partners such as India to support these efforts.

During today's Jan. 19 sessions, Gates also pressed for continued discussion on yet-to-be-finalized agreements between the two countries that will promote geospatial data-sharing, communications interoperability and security and logistical support.

"Not getting these agreements signed is an obstacle to Indian access to the very highest level of technology," he told reporters during the flight here.

Gates lauded in his article the way India has stepped up in the maritime domain, where it is working alongside the multinational naval task force, conducting counter-piracy missions.

In addition to counter-piracy, today's talks also focused on increasing "maritime domain awareness," which the defense official described as "knowing what is moving around out there."

The terror attacks that rocked Mumbai in November 2008 and left 173 people dead drove home the tragic consequences of gaps within this capability. Investigations revealed that the attackers entered Mumbai by hijacking a fishing trawler, killing its crew, then going ashore in a rubber dinghy.

"The attack on Mumbai came from the sea, so there is a definite need to track the movement of people who want to do harm to us out there," a senior defense official told reporters.

During the flight here, Gates praised India's restraint toward Pakistan following the attacks.

"The bombing in Mumbai was a really terrible event, and frankly, I believe that the Indians responded subsequently with a great deal of restraint and have conducted themselves in a very statesmanlike manner since that attack," he told reporters flying with him.

"Obviously, we would hope that there wouldn't be any more attacks," he said. "But I think that even within the framework of that attack and the suspicions that it created, the two sides have managed to keep the tensions between them at a manageable level."

Gates summed up today's Jan. 19 sessions as "very productive" and said he looks forward to another round of positive meetings tomorrow at the defense ministry, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell reported.

"Thus far, the visit is off to a very strong start," he said.

[Press Conference by Defense Secretary Gates in India \(01-20-2010\)](#)

Discusses U.S.-India relationship, Haiti, Afghanistan and more

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**[4. Ambassador Rice on Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula Sanctions \(01-19-2010\)](#)**

**United Nations announces three new al-Qaeda designations linked to Yemen**

Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on today's Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) Sanctions Designations, January 19, 2010

Today, the United Nations Security Council al-Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee (1267 Committee) announced three new al-Qaeda designations linked to Yemen, which include the group Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and two of its leaders, Nasir al-Wahishi and Said al-Shihri. AQAP and these two leaders will be subject to an internationally-binding freeze of their assets and a ban on transfers of arms; al-Wahishi and al-Shihri will also be subject to a global travel ban. The U.S. Department of Treasury has also announced domestic U.S. designation of AQAP, al-Wahishi and al-Shihri.

Today's actions strengthen international efforts to degrade the capabilities of AQAP.

AQAP is a Yemen-based terrorist organization that has claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist acts targeting Saudi Arabia, Korea, Yemen, and the United States since its inception in January 2009. Two weeks ago, President Obama confirmed that the individual responsible for the

attempted attack on December 25, 2009 on Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, Michigan had ties to AQAP.

Last month the Security Council reaffirmed the global consensus against al-Qaeda through its adoption of resolution 1904, which strengthened and improved the 1267 sanctions regime. In line with this new resolution, the United States supports the Council's ongoing work to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda's networks and eliminate its ability to carry out violent attacks.

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## **5. Yemen-based Group's Designation as Foreign Terrorist Organization (01-19-2010)** **AQAP Yemen-based terrorist organization responsible for terrorist acts**

Statement by Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs

Designations of Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Senior Leaders

The Secretary of State has designated al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (INA). The Secretary also designated AQAP and its two top leaders Nasir al-Wahishi and Said al-Shihri under E.O. 13224. Secretary Clinton took these actions in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury. These actions prohibit provision of material support and arms to AQAP and also include immigration related restrictions that will help stem the flow of finances to AQAP and give the Department of Justice the tools it needs to prosecute AQAP members.

AQAP is a Yemen-based terrorist organization that has claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist acts against Saudi, Korean, Yemeni, and U.S. targets since its inception in January 2009. Such instances include a March 2009 suicide bombing against South Korean tourists in Yemen, the August 2009 attempt to assassinate Saudi Prince Muhammad bin Nayif, and the December 25, 2009 failed attack on a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, Michigan.

Nasir Al-Wahishi proclaimed himself as the leader of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in January 2009. The press release in which al-Wahishi announced AQAP's re-emergence also noted that the group's Saudi militants had pledged allegiance to al-Wahishi as their new leader. Since then, Al-Wahishi has provided significant support for AQAP terrorist operations and has worked with AQAP operatives to facilitate attacks. As AQAP's leader, al-Wahishi is responsible for approving targets, recruiting new members, allocating resources to training and attack planning, and tasking others to carry out attacks.

Said Ali al-Shihri was publicly identified in January 2009 as the deputy leader of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). As deputy of AQAP, al-Shihri helps carry out terrorist acts by generating targets, recruiting new members, assisting with training and attack planning, and tasking others in the preparation of attacks.

These designations represent just one phase of the United States Government's response to the threat posed by AQAP and its senior leaders. In addition, the U.S. has requested that similar actions be taken against AQAP, al-Shihri, and al-Wahishi at the United Nations 1267 Committee. If successful, this will require all UN member states to implement an asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo against these entities. These designations will occur less than one month after the Security Council adopted resolution 1904, which renewed and strengthened the 1267 regime, and which created major new improvements to the way the UN imposes sanctions on al-Qa'ida and Taliban



terrorists. The actions taken today against AQAP support the U.S. effort to degrade the capabilities of this group. We are determined to eliminate AQAP's ability to execute violent attacks and to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat their networks.

Designations of foreign terrorist organizations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business. The consequences of these designations include a prohibition against the provision of material support or resources to FTOs; the freezing of all property and interests in property of the organization that are in the United States, or come within the United States or the control of U.S. persons; and provide special immigration related options to law enforcement.

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## **6. White House on Travel of General Jones in Middle East (01-15-2010)** **Security advisor reiterates U.S. support for sovereign, independent Lebanon**

Statement by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer on the Travel of General Jones in the Middle East

National Security Advisor Jim Jones concluded a week-long visit to the Middle East in Lebanon today. Throughout his trip, General Jones discussed the full range of regional challenges and opportunities at this critical time in the Middle East.

While in Lebanon, General Jones met with President Michel Sleiman, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, and Prime Minister Saad Hariri. During his meetings, General Jones expressed support for strengthening Lebanon's state institutions, particularly the Lebanese Armed Forces, and for its missions to implement all UN Security Council resolutions relevant to Lebanon and protect all Lebanese citizens. He reiterated the President's commitment to strengthening the partnership between the United States and Lebanon across a broad range of issues.

The National Security Advisor reiterated the United States' continued support for a sovereign and independent Lebanon and stressed that our efforts to achieve our goals in the Middle East, especially a comprehensive regional peace, will not come at Lebanon's expense.

General Jones concluded his visit at the U.S. Embassy where he greeted Embassy staff and retired personnel. The National Security Advisor, who served as the 32nd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, conveyed the President's appreciation for the employees' service and dedication. General Jones also honored those who sacrificed their lives, laying a wreath at the Embassy's memorial where the names of the 337 people killed in service to the United States government in Lebanon between 1976 and 1995 - including the victims of the 1983 and 1984 Embassy and Marine Barracks bombings - are etched on a stone monument.

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